Cooperative Mexican fruit fly Eradication Project

San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner California Department of Food and Agriculture United States Department of Agriculture

To: MEDIA Date: December 6, 2002

From: Public Information Office Pages: One

Subject: Information Update for media......4 p.m. Final for Friday

Survey

No Mexican fruit flies were confirmed today. There were no larval detections. Project personnel have confirmed a total of 61 adult flies at 23 sites and 6 larval sites to date. All of these detections are within approximately 2 and ½ miles of each other, northwest of Valley Center.

Regulatory

A map of the official Mexican fruit fly quarantine is available at www.cdfa.ca.gov under the "Hot News Items" link. Maps are also available at project office on Valley Center Road. To date, 231 growers have signed compliance agreements. These agreements specify pre-harvest and post-harvest treatments allowing commodities to move in commerce. Hold notices have been placed on properties where adult flies or larvae have been found to prevent the spread of the pest.

Treatment

103 California Conservation Corps (CCC) staff, under the direction of project personnel, continued removal of fruit at larval properties today.

Phonebank

Residents with questions may call 800-491-1899. The hotline is staffed from 8:00am to 6:00pm.

Meetings/Other

Growers, packers, shippers and others with questions about regulatory requirements may get information or sign compliance agreements to facilitate crop movement on Saturday (8:00am-4:00pm) and Sunday (Noon-4:00pm) at the project headquarters located at the county maintenance yard just off Valley Center Road.

County highway personnel continued placement of quarantine signs on major thoroughfares surrounding the quarantine area.